

## General

### Title

Pain management: percentage of patients with documented medication regimen with evidence of titration/adjustment in accordance with World Health Organization (WHO) step ladder.

### Source(s)

American Medical Directors Association (AMDA). Implementing AMDA's clinical practice guidelines in the long term care setting -- CPG implementation series: pain management manual. Columbia (MD): American Medical Directors Association; 2014. 113 p.

## Measure Domain

### Primary Measure Domain

Clinical Quality Measures: Process

### Secondary Measure Domain

Does not apply to this measure

## Brief Abstract

### Description

This measure is used to assess the percentage of patients with documented medication regimen with evidence of titration/adjustment in accordance with World Health Organization (WHO) step ladder.

### Rationale

Pain is common in the long term care (LTC) setting, and it affects measures of patients' well-being, such as mood and the ability to perform activities of daily living. Pain management should be considered a patient's right in the LTC setting. Practitioners have a professional obligation to prevent needless suffering and to do their best to provide effective pain relief (American Geriatrics Society, 2009). Accordingly, a systems approach is needed to recognize, assess, treat, and monitor pain in the LTC setting.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Pain Relief Ladder is a three-step "ladder" approach to pain

management based on pain severity. In step 1 (mild pain) a non-opioid analgesic, with or without an adjuvant analgesic, is recommended. If pain persists or increases, step 2 and step 3 recommend an opioid plus a non-opioid and, possibly, an adjuvant. This approach is meant to serve as a guide to pain management. For patients with persistent pain the main goal is to decrease pain intensity. However, other goals include achieving functional outcomes such as improving independence in activities of daily living (ADLs), participation in activities and optimizing cognition, mood or sleep.

## Evidence for Rationale

American Geriatrics Society Panel on Pharmacological Management of Persistent Pain in Older Persons. Pharmacological management of persistent pain in older persons. J Am Geriatr Soc. 2009 Aug;57(8):1331-46. [PubMed](#)

American Medical Directors Association (AMDA). National Quality Measures Clearinghouse (NQMC) measure submission form: geriatrics: percentage of patients with documented medication regimen with evidence of titration/adjustment in accordance with World Health Organization (WHO) step ladder (pain relief ladder). 2014 Feb. 7 p.

American Medical Directors Association (AMDA). Pain management in the long term care setting. Columbia (MD): American Medical Directors Association (AMDA); 2012. 60 p. [93 references]

Kaasalainen S. An action-based approach to improving pain management in long term care. J Am Med Dir Assoc. 2010 Mar;11(3):B3.

Nursing standard of practice protocol: pain management in older adults. In: Horgas AL, Yoon SL, Grall M, Boltz M, Capezuti E, Fulmer TT, Zwicker D, O'Meara A, editor(s). Evidence-based geriatric nursing protocols for best practice, 4th edition. New York (NY): Springer Publishing Company; 2011 Nov.

## Primary Health Components

Long term care (LTC); pain management; pain medication; World Health Organization (WHO) Pain Relief Ladder; elderly

## Denominator Description

Number of all patients receiving pain medication aged greater than or equal to 65 years

## Numerator Description

Number of patients with documented medication regimen with evidence of titration/adjustment in accordance with World Health Organization (WHO) step ladder (Pain Relief Ladder) (see the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field)

## Evidence Supporting the Measure

### Type of Evidence Supporting the Criterion of Quality for the Measure

A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical research evidence

One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed

## Additional Information Supporting Need for the Measure

Unspecified

## Extent of Measure Testing

The measure has been developed by the national organization American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) and promotes precise development and the use of clinical performance measures.

## Evidence for Extent of Measure Testing

American Medical Directors Association (AMDA). National Quality Measures Clearinghouse (NQMC) measure submission form: geriatrics: percentage of patients with documented medication regimen with evidence of titration/adjustment in accordance with World Health Organization (WHO) step ladder (pain relief ladder). 2014 Feb. 7 p.

## State of Use of the Measure

### State of Use

Current routine use

### Current Use

not defined yet

## Application of the Measure in its Current Use

### Measurement Setting

Assisted Living Facilities

Skilled Nursing Facilities/Nursing Homes

### Professionals Involved in Delivery of Health Services

not defined yet

### Least Aggregated Level of Services Delivery Addressed

Individual Clinicians or Public Health Professionals

### Statement of Acceptable Minimum Sample Size

Unspecified

## Target Population Age

Age greater than or equal to 65 years

## Target Population Gender

Either male or female

# National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care

## National Quality Strategy Aim

Better Care

## National Quality Strategy Priority

Prevention and Treatment of Leading Causes of Mortality

# Institute of Medicine (IOM) National Health Care Quality Report Categories

## IOM Care Need

End of Life Care

Getting Better

Living with Illness

## IOM Domain

Effectiveness

# Data Collection for the Measure

## Case Finding Period

Unspecified

## Denominator Sampling Frame

Patients associated with provider

## Denominator (Index) Event or Characteristic

Institutionalization

Patient/Individual (Consumer) Characteristic

Therapeutic Intervention

## Denominator Time Window

not defined yet

## Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions

Number of all patients receiving pain medication aged greater than or equal to 65 years

Exclusions

Unspecified

## Exclusions/Exceptions

not defined yet

## Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions

Number of patients with documented medication regimen with evidence of titration/adjustment in accordance with World Health Organization (WHO) step ladder (Pain Relief Ladder)

Note: "Documentation" refers to written evidence as to whether a procedure/discussion was indicated/done or not indicated/not done.

Exclusions

Unspecified

## Numerator Search Strategy

Institutionalization

## Data Source

Administrative clinical data

Electronic health/medical record

Paper medical record

## Type of Health State

Does not apply to this measure

## Instruments Used and/or Associated with the Measure

World Health Organization (WHO) Pain Relief Ladder

# Computation of the Measure

## Measure Specifies Disaggregation

Does not apply to this measure

## Scoring

Rate/Proportion

## Interpretation of Score

Desired value is a higher score

## Allowance for Patient or Population Factors

not defined yet

## Standard of Comparison

not defined yet

# Identifying Information

## Original Title

Percentage of patients with documented medication regimen with evidence of titration/adjustment in accordance with WHO step ladder.

## Measure Collection Name

Pain Management

## Measure Set Name

Clinical Process Measures

## Measure Subset Name

Treatment

## Submitter

American Medical Directors Association - Nonprofit Organization

## Developer

## Funding Source(s)

Unspecified

## Composition of the Group that Developed the Measure

- Karl Steinberg, MD, CMD, *Chair*
- Nancy Losben, RPH, CCP, FASCP, *Co-Chair*
- Charles Cefalu, MD, MS, *Project Chair*
- Hosam Kamel, MD, CMC, *Project Vice-Chair*
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- Norda Bellantoni, RN, CNHA, CAS,CALA, FACHCA
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- Renante Ignacio, MD, CMD
- Kevin W. O'Neil, MD, FACP, CMD
- Sue Pearson, DO, PhD, CMD
- Frederick Rowland, MD, CMD
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## Financial Disclosures/Other Potential Conflicts of Interest

Faculty and workgroup members do not have any financial relationships to disclose.

## Adaptation

This measure was not adapted from another source.

## Date of Most Current Version in NQMC

2014 Feb

## Measure Maintenance

Unspecified

## Date of Next Anticipated Revision

Unspecified

## Measure Status

This is the current release of the measure.

This measure updates a previous version: American Medical Directors Association. We care: tool kit for implementation of the clinical practice guideline for pain management [binder]. Columbia (MD): American Medical Directors Association (AMDA); 2004. various p.

The measure developer reaffirmed the currency of this measure in April 2016.

## Measure Availability

Source available for purchase from the [American Medical Directors Association \(AMDA\) Web site](#)

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For more information, contact AMDA at 11000 Broken Land Parkway, Suite 400, Columbia, MD 21044; Phone: 410-740-9743; Fax: 410-740-4572; E-mail: [info@paltc.org](mailto:info@paltc.org); Web site: [www.paltc.org](http://www.paltc.org)

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## Companion Documents

The following is available:

American Medical Directors Association (AMDA). National Quality Measures Clearinghouse (NQMC) measure submission form: geriatrics: percentage of patients with documented medication regimen with evidence of titration/adjustment in accordance with World Health Organization (WHO) step ladder. 2014 Feb. 7 p.

For more information, contact AMDA at 11000 Broken Land Parkway, Suite 400, Columbia, MD 21044; Phone: 410-740-9743; Fax: 410-740-4572; E-mail: [info@paltc.org](mailto:info@paltc.org); Web site: [www.paltc.org](http://www.paltc.org)

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## NQMC Status

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI on May 17, 2005. The information was verified by the measure developer on June 16, 2005.

This NQMC summary was retrofitted into the new template on July 15, 2011.

This NQMC summary was updated by ECRI Institute on September 23, 2014. The information was verified by the measure developer on November 20, 2014.

The information was reaffirmed by the measure developer on April 5, 2016.

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## Production



## Source(s)

American Medical Directors Association (AMDA). Implementing AMDA's clinical practice guidelines in the long term care setting -- CPG implementation series: pain management manual. Columbia (MD): American Medical Directors Association; 2014. 113 p.

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